

## Why Not Try...?



### The Discipline of the Month

# Working Equitation

### Five reasons to try Working Equitation

1.

This is a sport where you can start slow and end up competing at faster speeds as you move up the levels.

2.

Most Clubs could start by using existing equipment

3.

It involves skills you learn in other sports - or will help in other sports: dressage, showjumping, games and more

4.

This is a sport that can take you to state, national and international competitions

5.

Working Equitation will improve your precision, riding and unity with your horse. It can be done individually or in a team.

# Working Equitation

## - what is it?

Working equitation started in Australia in 2007 and is a fast growing sport. Competition consists of four phases; the first three below are compulsory. At the highest levels, riders do test(s) with one hand.

**Dressage** – encourages harmony between horse and rider. Tests are conducted in a 20m x 40m arena.

**Maneability** – horse and rider demonstrate how calmly, precisely and stylishly they deal with a course of obstacles.

**Speed** – a test of speed, agility and athleticism using the same obstacles as the maneability phase.

**Cattle** – tests the ability of the horse and rider to work cattle individually and with teammates. For more on this see the ANWE website.

[The Australian National Working Equitation website](#) explains the levels at which rider's compete, from Leadline to Masters (eight levels)



## History of the Sport

The discipline of Working Equitation was created to promote the different types of equitation techniques developed in countries that used the riding horse to work on farms, ranches and with livestock - such as Portugal, Spain, France and Italy.

It quickly expanded to Sweden, Germany, the UK and Brazil.

Working Equitation has been an international competition since 1996. Riders of every breed of horse and from all backgrounds are trying their hand at the precision and unity of horse and rider needed to excel.

At International level, the advanced riders must ride with the reins only in one hand.



# Types of Obstacles

## Maneuverability Phase

This is usually done in an area 70m by 40-50m.

Recommended number of obstacles for the lower levels.

- Lead Line 8 obstacles
- Introductory 8-10 obstacles
- Participant Preliminary 10-12 obstacles
- Participant Debutante 12-14 obstacles

## Gait Required

This is specified for each level of competition. It is also specified for each obstacle, and is generally:

Lead Line – Level 1 Trot & walk as directed

Introductory – Level 2 - Trot & walk as directed

Participant Preliminary - Level 3 - Canter, trot & walk

Debutante W – Level 4 Canter with walk changes

Debutante F - Level 5 Canter with flying changes

In Debutante, trot steps receive an insufficient mark.

## Garrocha

- a long pole used to collect and deposit an object eg a ring

[Watch an expert to see how it is done!](#)

In fact this shows a whole course done at speed and with one hand only!



## Spearing a Ring

The competitor, at the required gait, collects a ring using the long pole (lower right). The ring should have an outside diameter of 15cm, and can be collected from a 'bull' or a number of bases at various heights ranging from 1.2m to 1.6m. The ring and pole are then deposited in a barrel - rather like a flag race.



An obstacle like a wooden bridge should officially be at least 4m long x 1.5m wide and at least 20cm above the ground at its centre. There is a sloping 1m ramp at both ends. Most of the lower levels do this at a walk.



In a bell corridor, the rider rides between poles or hay bales at least 1.5m apart and rings a bell 2m high. Some levels also have to complete a rein back.

This obstacle is judged on the horse's attitude and straightness, the rider's use of aids, regularity, balance, continuity and quality of the performance.



Above:  
Stock pen,  
ride both  
ways





## More Information on:

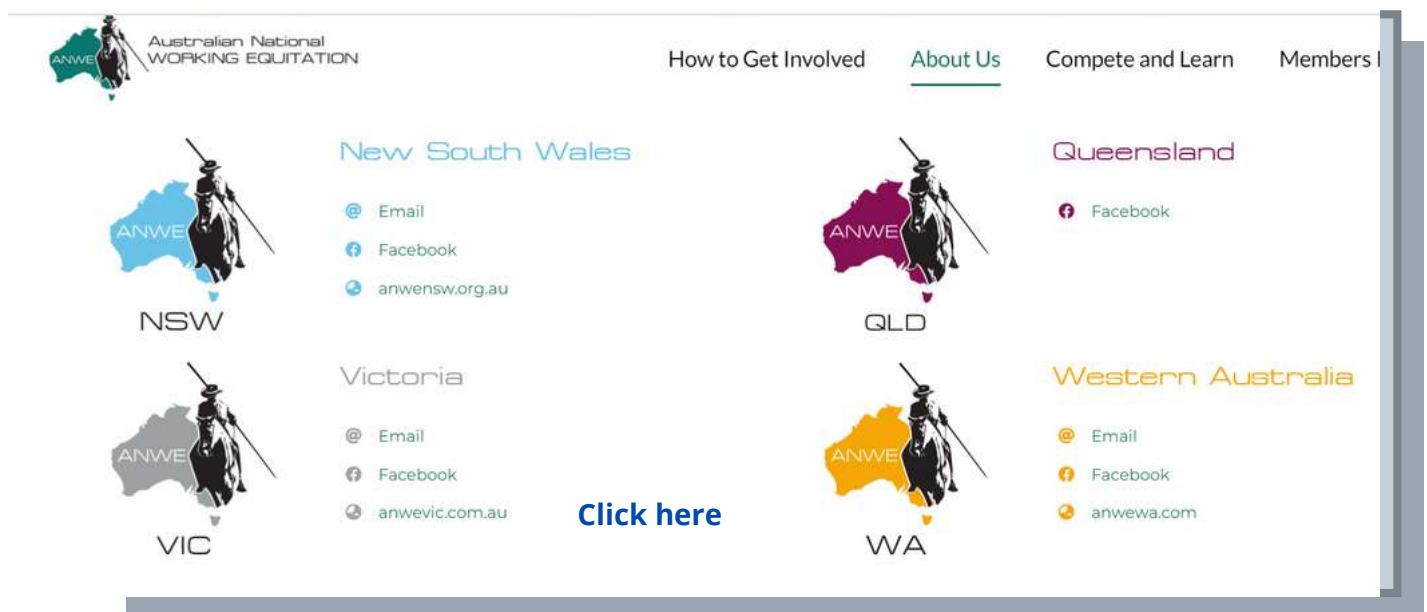
# National and State organisations

Australian National Working Equitation the sole official accredited agent for the World Association Working Equitation (WAWE). It is the national governing body for the promotion and the administration of the sport of working equitation in Australia. ANWE has allowed us to share information from their website and we urge you to visit to view their Rule Book (see below) and Club lists.

ANWE places an emphasis on harmony between horse and rider and the quality of training and riding.

ANWE demands humane, correct and progressive training and the conditioning of the horse resulting in physical and mental soundness. It runs training camps, competitions, and symposiums .

## Working Equitation Clubs and Coaches



The screenshot shows the ANWE website's navigation and state-level contact information. The top navigation bar includes 'How to Get Involved', 'About Us', 'Compete and Learn', and 'Members'. The main content area is divided into four sections, each representing a state: NSW, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia. Each section features a map of the state with a rider silhouette, the state name, and contact details for email, Facebook, and the state website. A 'Click here' link is positioned between the Victoria and Western Australia sections.

State	Contact Information
NSW	Email, Facebook, <a href="http://anwensw.org.au">anwensw.org.au</a>
Victoria	Email, Facebook, <a href="http://anwevic.com.au">anwevic.com.au</a>
Queensland	Facebook
Western Australia	Email, Facebook, <a href="http://anwewa.com">anwewa.com</a>

There are four State level offices you can contact for information, including about judges, and coaches to come along and give a lesson at your Club rally or muster. You can also make contact with coaches, and find local WE clubs, by searching for Working Equitation groups on Facebook.

## [ANWE Tests Rules and Gradings](#)

If you are looking for activities to try at your Club or at home, all previous Disciplines we have covered so far are [on our website here](#):

## With thanks to:

Merindah Thompson, from Tasmania, PCA Level 1 Coach with jumping extension; assessor and mentor.

and

Australian National Working Equitation Ltd (ANWE) [www.anwe.org.au](http://www.anwe.org.au)

